

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 787

By Hackworth

A RESOLUTION supporting fair, equitable and competitive retirement benefits for former U. S. Department of Energy Oak Ridge prime contractor employees.

WHEREAS, there are approximately twelve thousand (12,000) retirees from the Department of Energy operation of Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL), Y12, K25, and other U. S. Department of Energy Oak Ridge prime contractors, and these men and women faithfully and skillfully advanced the scientific, energy, and national defense goals of the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, the pensions of these retirees are fixed without automatic cost of living increases and have received only two (2) adjustments for inflation since 1984; the average value of these pensions has sunk to about fifty percent (50%) of their original purchasing power; and

WHEREAS, the economic well-being of these retirees is crucial for the overall prosperity of Anderson County and the surrounding area; and

WHEREAS, there exist continuing and very serious inequities in the pension benefits of retirees of U. S. Department of Energy Oak Ridge prime contractors compared to some Department of Energy prime contractor pension benefits in other states; and

WHEREAS, sufficient funds now exist in the Oak Ridge Pension Trust Fund to support an equitable adjustment for Oak Ridge retirees; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that this General Assembly does hereby urge the U. S. Congress, especially the Tennessee Congressional delegation, the U. S. Secretary of Energy, the Oak Ridge Operations Office, and the current Department of Energy prime contractors to:



(a) provide for fair, equitable, and competitive retirement benefits for former and present Oak Ridge U. S. Department of Energy contract employees;

(b) assure that the pension funds are only used for the benefit of retirees; and

(c) provide for biannual cost of living adjustments to the pensions of U. S. Department of Energy Oak Ridge prime contractor retirees, so as to maintain pension purchasing power of about seventy-five percent (75%) of initial value.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an enrolled copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Speaker and Clerk of the United States House of Representatives, the President and Secretary of the United States Senate, each member of the Tennessee Congressional Delegation, the U. S. Secretary of Energy, and each current Department of Energy Oak Ridge prime contractor.